



®

**BOB KING, President****DENNIS WILLIAMS, Secretary-Treasurer****JULIE KUSHNER****DIRECTOR**

REGION 9A UAW

111 SOUTH ROAD

FARMINGTON, CONNECTICUT 06032-2560

PHONE: (860) 674-0143

FAX: (860) 674-1164

PRINTED IN U.S.A.

---

**INTERNATIONAL UNION, UNITED AUTOMOBILE, AEROSPACE & AGRICULTURAL IMPLEMENT WORKERS OF AMERICA-UAW**

---

March 3, 2011

To: Senator Harp, Representative Walker and Members of the Appropriations Committee

From: Beverley Brakeman, United Auto Workers Region 9A

Re: Legal Aid Funding – Judicial Department

Good evening. My name is Beverley Brakeman and I am the Community Action representative for UAW Region 9A. I am here on behalf of our Director Julie Kushner to testify in support of legal aid funding.

The UAW represents many legal aid attorneys and advocates across the country and here in Connecticut. UAW Local 2320 is our national local which provides services in states across the country to low income individuals dealing with domestic violence, homelessness, housing, lack of disability benefits and more.

Tonight you will hear from some legal aid clients who have been helped by legal aid workers in Connecticut and about the services they provide to poor people.

These legal aid workers are some of the most dedicated and effective advocates for poor people in this state. And despite the sagging economy which has led to fewer resources and growing case loads, over the last two years they have continued to work with reduced pay and increased work hours in order to be able to continue to serve their clients and improve lives.

Our members are willing to do that because of their passion for their work and for their clients. They are not driven by dollars or salary but rather by a higher objective to help those less fortunate than themselves.

The UAW is incredibly appreciative of the governor and this legislature for your efforts to maintain the remaining legal aid funding and avoid any further cuts in these services.

Thank you.

BB;cf  
opeiu494